

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 16 and 17 are cancelled. Claims 1-15 are pending and under consideration.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 and under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,761,308 to Torii et al. (hereinafter "Torii"). Claims 16 and 17 are cancelled herewith.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

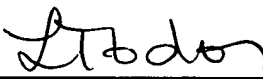
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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